

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2-21-07
HB HB 612

HB 612

Letters of Support

Yev Chinikaylo
2319 Benton Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Hi, my name is Yev Chinikaylo. I live in Missoula, MT. I am 20 years old and I have a 3 year old daughter. When I got pregnant at 16, I was surprised to say the least.

Being raised in a Russian, Christian-based household I was not allowed to ask questions about sex, relationships, birth control, or STIs. When I reached sixth grade I had a lot of questions about my body, hormones, and all the changes I had been going through. When I found out I was going to take a sex-ed class that year I was relieved to know I would get some answers. When I learned that a signed permission slip was required my excitement vanished. I knew that my mom would never sign it, but I figured I'd give it a try. I felt that I had taken all the steps I could to convince my mom that this was not a porno class, but my permission slip went unsigned. What I found out about relationships for the next two years came from my friends, and I was more confused than ever.

When I reached eighth grade and no longer needed my mom's permission to participate in the class, I was again relieved and excited. But before we got to the good stuff, hormone changes, birth control, healthy relationships, we were reminded of our religious beliefs. As the teacher went on about the things I had waited so long to hear, I sat inattentively, ashamed of having these questions and wanting the answers.

Not knowing the facts, I decided that my friends did have all the answers, since they seemed to have no shame listening to how there reproductive organs worked. I assumed that having a relationship meant having intercourse, since everyone else was doing it. I did learn that being on the pill was "cool", and I also learned that drugs were "cool". However, I did not know that the two combined would offset the effects of the pill.

When I learned that I was pregnant I couldn't believe it, I had taken the pill religiously, and I wasn't even married.

Looking back you would think that I was just ignorant. But I wasn't born with the answers, I got them anyplace I felt safe. Since no one corrected my thoughts I assumed there was nothing to correct.

If someone had told me that I could date, that I could be liked, or that I could feel good about myself without having intercourse I would probably have made different choices.

Becoming a young parent has made me postpone almost all of my goals. I have had to give up a lot of my childhood experiences. I wanted to go to my prom, I wanted to walk down and get my diploma with the rest of my class, I wanted to take that one year off before college and learn about myself. But it is not all about me either. Although I try my best to provide my daughter with the life that she deserves, she also misses out on a lot of the childhood memories that she should have.

There are a lot of government assistance and programs to help me and my daughter out, but you don't want to be the family that relies on assistance, and you also don't want to be the family that lives in the car or under the bridge.

Even with my busy schedule I do make time to participate in the FUTURES Teen Peer Education Panel, educating Missoula teens about the reality and responsibilities of being a teen

parent. I know how important it is to get reliable information, and how important it is to receive that information without being judged or feeling ashamed.

Whether we like it or not teenagers get information anywhere they can. If we limit their resources to the media, their friends, and their own trial and error, if we don't supply them with medically accurate information, if we don't open the door to conversation in a safe environment, they will make their own decisions based on what they know, and with my experience, it isn't much.

I am asking you to please support HB 612, the "Healthy Youth Program Act," so that every Montana teen may have the accurate information they need to make responsible decisions about their bodies, knowing there are choices and consequences.

Thank You,
Yev Chinikaylo

Anna Stout, BSW
Futures Panel Coordinator
WORD, Inc.
2525 Palmer St, Suite 1
Missoula, MT 59808
406-544-1276

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Stout and I am from Missoula. I work with pregnant and parenting teens in a program called Futures, a project of Women's Opportunity and Resource Development. I am very concerned about the current lack of comprehensive sexuality education for Montana adolescents and am writing to urge you to vote for HB 612, the Healthy Youth Program Act.

Although nationally teen pregnancy and birth rates are declining, Montana ranked 43rd out of all 50 states for its decline in teen births between 1991 and 2004, and the United States still has the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and births of the industrialized world (The National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy, 2006).

It is a fact that Montana adolescents are sexually active:

- Approximately one in three (27%) of 9th graders
- Over 40% of 10th graders
- Over 50% of 11th graders, and
- About 3 in 5 (60%) of 12th graders in Montana reported having sexual intercourse at least once.

According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2003,

- 41.7% of all MT high school females and 45.2% of all MT high school males have ever had sexual intercourse.
- 12.3% of these females and 15.3% of the males reported having **four or more sexual partners**, putting them at high risk of transmitting and/or contracting a Sexually Transmitted Infection, especially when one considers that ...
- Only 54.7% of high school females and only 64.7% of the males used a condom at last intercourse. And less than one-third of high school females were on birth control pills at their last intercourse, putting them at high risk for unintended pregnancy.

In 2004, 28% of Montana teens who had a pregnancy reported they had a prior pregnancy. This is a strong indication that teen pregnancy and repeat pregnancy are a major issue among Montana Teens, yet they are at continued risk of unwanted pregnancy and STIs because they are not receiving medically accurate comprehensive sexuality education. Without medically accurate comprehensive sex ed, Montana teens are left to their own devices to get information about sexuality, STIs, and pregnancy prevention. Many rely on myths and information from their peers that may not be accurate. As a result, I see teens everyday who are dealing with the consequences of an unwanted pregnancy, consequences that could have been avoided had they received comprehensive information early enough to prevent it. Consider the following consequences:

- Only one-third of teen mothers receive a high school diploma
- Nearly 80% of teen mothers end up on welfare.
- Teens are more likely than women 20 years of age or older to have late or no prenatal care, babies with low birth weights, and experience complications with their babies during or after childbirth.
- Children of teen parents are more likely to experience abuse and neglect and perform poorly in school.
- Sons of teen parents are 13% more likely to end up in prison, and daughters of teen parents are 22% more likely to become teen mothers themselves.

Every day, I watch the teen mothers and fathers I work with struggle to finish high school or obtain their GED, get and hold steady employment (not to mention a job that pays more than minimum wage), find safe, affordable housing, find quality child care for their children, put food on the table, and struggle to cope with the demands of raising a child before they are financially, physically, psychologically, and emotionally prepared to do so.

Prevention strategies are so much more cost effective than interventions that take place after pregnancy has occurred. Please support HB 612 to provide Montana adolescents with the comprehensive information they need to lead healthy, successful lives. Please support HB 612, our youth are depending on it.

Thank You,
Anna Stout

Emily Hooker
Bridger Clinic
300 North Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Members of the Committee,

I respectfully ask that you support HB 612. I am a nurse practitioner with many teens among my clientele. I am constantly saddened by the lack of information that teens have regarding their own bodies and sexual and reproductive health issues. This lack of accurate, comprehensive information unintentionally encourages risk-taking behaviors and results in increased risk for STD and unintended pregnancy.

Comprehensive sexuality education programs stress the many advantages of postponing sexual involvement (abstinence). In addition, they give our youth accurate information regarding contraception, sexually transmitted infection and incorporate discussion of responsible, respectful relationships and how to resist sexual coercion. Our youth are in dire need of factual comprehensive information. From an early age they receive much inaccurate information from their peers and are exposed to a barrage of sexually exploitative, irresponsible messages in the media. The absence of comprehensive sexuality education in our schools does not protect our children---it only perpetuates their lack of knowledge and restricts their ability to make healthy decisions while giving the media a much louder voice. Please help our youth get the information they need to stay healthy and make wise decisions by passing HB 612.

Thank you,
Emily Hooker

TO: Members of the Committee

From: Michael H. Downing, DDS
Director, Community Dental Practice
Yellowstone City-County Health Dept.
Billings, MT 59101

RE: HB 612

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am a trained facilitator for sexuality training for Junior and Senior High youth. The program is called Our Whole Lives (OWL) and is a values-based sexuality education program that is run through our church (Mayflower United Church of Christ). I mention this because I know what age-appropriate, medically-accurate, sex education involves. This bill you're considering is a wonderful chance to get the right information out to the youth of our state.

In my role as a dentist at the Deering Community Health Center (which also includes the Montana Women's Prison) I see the destructive results of sexually transmitted diseases on a daily basis, from HPV to HIV to Hep C. There are tremendous peer pressures and a huge amount of misinformation to which our children are exposed. You have a great chance to get the ball rolling towards a great avenue of health and wellness for the youth of this wonderful state of Montana.

Please support this HB 612. Your also supporting our children and it doesn't get any better than that.

Respectfully,

Michael H. Downing

Ginger Roll, RN
Rosebud County Public Health Nurse
PPWOW site (Planned Parenthood Without Walls)
121 N. 11th Ave.
Forsyth, MT 59327

Dear Members of the Committee~

Working in rural Eastern Montana I see many young people unwilling, unsure of, or uneducated about safe sexual practices. In addition, not only are they at physical risk for unplanned pregnancy and STIs, but they often suffer from low self-esteem related to poor decision making. This bill allows for the education so missing in the lives of many of these young people. Please support HB 612. This is an important bill for the health of Montana's youth. A recent Guttmacher Institute survey reported that 95% of Americans have sex before they're married and yet we are not equipping our students with the knowledge they need to protect themselves. Comprehensive sex ed emphasizes abstinence as the only sure way to avoid unwanted pregnancy and STIs but also educates about contraceptives. Don't our youth deserve to know the truth? HIV/AIDS, a sexually-transmitted infection, can be avoided with a simple sheath of latex for .50 at the local pharmacy and yet this disease and other STIs still spread among our youth. Our sons and daughters deserve better. Please, show your support for healthy youth and pass HB 612.

Thank you,
Ginger Roll

Karen S. Sloan RNCNP
4 Cypress Drive
Havre, Montana

Thank you, for the opportunity to address you about this very exciting bill #612.

I am a nurse practitioner who has been practicing nursing for forty years and am so pleased to see this health issue so well addressed.

When my daughter graduated from high school a few years ago and several of her friends and she were going off to college I invited about eight of her close friends and their mothers to my home to have an open discussion of sexuality, anatomy-physiology-date rape, sexually transmitted disease, sexual advances and how to navigate in the larger world they were entering. These were very well educated young women who had taken many advanced placement courses, been very active in the community and their school and churches. I was amazed at what they didn't know.

I think that we have become obsessed with negative portrayals of sex education to the point of promoting ignorance. How many parents are comfortable discussing menstrual cycles with their sons and daughters? I am amazed when I discuss contraceptive use with my patients, many married women in their 30's, how many have gotten this far through life without this information which every woman needs to know. I have several couples who come together because neither of them have had any learning opportunities about their bodies. I always talk to young men about testicular cancer which although it is relatively rare, very often strikes young men. We have put health education on the back burner if it has anything to do with sexuality for to long...

Parents need to accept the responsibility of teaching the morals that they want for their children and this bill addresses the necessity to respect those values. It also guarantees science based information which promote good health throughout life. This bill addresses the need for family communication and my experience with teaching sexuality classes in Sunday school and Confirmation has been that many parents have come to me later and said, "I learned several things from talking about the classes with my child".

Please affirm the importance of this education by voting, Yes, for this bill.

Thank You,

Karen S. Sloan RNCNP

Wendy Richards
Custer County Public Health
1010 Main
Miles City, MT 59301

Dear Members of the Committee~

Please support HB 612. This is an important bill for the health of Montana's youth. A recent Guttmacher Institute survey reported that 95% of Americans have sex before they're married and yet we are not equipping our students with the knowledge they need to protect themselves. Comprehensive sex ed emphasizes abstinence as the only sure way to avoid unwanted pregnancy and STIs but also educates about contraceptives. Don't our youth deserve to know the truth? HIV/AIDS, a sexually-transmitted infection, can be avoided with a simple sheath of latex for .50 at the local pharmacy and yet this disease and other STIs still spread among our youth. Our sons and daughters deserve better. Please, show your support for healthy youth and pass HB 612.

Thank you,
Wendy Richards

2/15/2007

To Who It May Concern:

I am a proponent of the "Healthy Bill for Teens" that supports state funding for a comprehensive sexuality education program. As a parent for 25 years and an educator for 26, I see a need for a mandatory, comprehensive teen education program. As our children are becoming sexually active at a younger age these students need accurate information to make informed decisions. We need to look at the health and safety issues that affect our children's uninformed decisions. As a society with moral obligations we have not done a very good job of educating our young on these very important issues that will affect their health and lives forever.

Sincerely,
Susan Butler
Teacher, Capital High School

Joan Kampa
Big Sky High School
Missoula, Montana 59804

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 612. I'm a high school Health Enhancement teacher and I can't stress enough the importance of a comprehensive human sexuality program at this level. Abstinence is clearly the best method to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. I harp on that. However, by the time my students leave high school, almost sixty percent report having had sexual intercourse at least once regardless of the clear abstinence message we're delivering.

As an educator, this fact grabs my attention. I'm stressing abstinence over and over and kids are still engaging in sex. I believe we have a responsibility to address this fact with giving kids information that protects their sexual health and safety, and helps them make good life decisions. Contraceptive information is a critical component to addressing this problem. When kids are engaging in sexual activity, they better know how to protect themselves from unwanted teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. When they don't, all of us share the price in various forms.

We teach Human Sexuality at the freshman level. This is the last chance to deliver a clear, comprehensive, responsible program that addresses the knowledge and provides the resources these kids need as they go through the next three years.

Please don't sell our students short. Give them the whole picture. Support HB 612.

Respectfully,
Joan Kampa

February 20, 2007

Dear Members of the Human Services House Committee:

You have an opportunity today to help save the lives of our young people. Your support for HB 612 will establish a "Healthy Youth Program" that helps our young people protect their health, prevent teen pregnancies that interfere with their life plans, and prevent abortions.

I've been teaching human sexuality education to youth in churches for over 30 years. I have taught them our religious values and have tried to give them the skills to make responsible decisions. But I have also been honest with them about the facts with an "abstinence plus" approach. I have given them information about contraception so that they know if they choose to become sexually involved, they are prepared to protect themselves.

Some religious leaders will tell you that this kind of openness about sexuality only encourages early sexual behavior. That is not true. Statistics back up my anecdotal evidence that young people who have all the facts about sexuality will make more responsible choices, including delaying their sexual involvement. Many young adults do choose to wait until marriage to have sexual intercourse. Unfortunately, some youth get themselves caught up in unhealthy sexual behaviors because it's not really "intercourse" or they deny that they are sexually active because they didn't plan it--meaning they didn't use a condom or any other method of birth control. Sometimes they don't use birth control while being sexually active because they have heard false reports of the reliability of different contraceptive methods and they think it doesn't matter. We need to give our youth the truth.

I urge you to vote for HB 612 and prepare our teenagers to make healthy responsible choices. Montana youth are smart enough and strong enough to make good decisions that benefit them--and all our society.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Ronald C. Greene
Central Christian Church
1025 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

I would like to speak in favor of HB 612. For twenty years as a pastor, I have been involved in youth ministry. My experience tells me that children who are given practice making responsible choices from an early age are much more able to make healthy decisions as they grow older. In fact, it is that ongoing practice (not abstinence-only programs that dictate morality and withhold information) that builds self-esteem and allows teens to say no to peer pressure. Accurate information is an important part of moral decision-making.

If the schools can present factual information about contraception and healthy sexual practice, then we don't have to undo learning when we offer our comprehensive sex education program in our congregations. When the youth come to us prepared with the facts, we can focus on the Christian values we want to teach related to sexual expression.

The Reverend Dr. Ruth Fletcher
Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Montana

Dear Members of the Committee~

Please support HB 612. I am a twenty year old collage student, who as a highschooler learned the facts about STD's and sexual intercourse. It made me glad that someone cared enough about me to give me information not rules so i didn't have to learn about STD's and Pregnancy first hand.i believe that the more informed you are about anything the better choice's you make. Please don't make our youth learn about STD's and Pregnancy on there own.

Sincerely;

Edward Taylor
1701 20th street south apt C36
Great Falls MT 59405

Breanna Bishop
1701 20th st. s. apt. c36
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Members of the Committee:

Please support HB 612. I am a 20 year old college student. In high school we were taught the facts about STDs and sexual intercourse. I think that this was great that someone cared enough to teach us about what can happen when we have sexual intercourse instead of just telling us not to do it. Don't we deserve to know the truth!?

Sincerely,

Breanna Bishop

Lisa McFarlane
403 W. Artemos Drive
Missoula, Montana 59803-1507
phone 406.728.4571

February 19, 2007

Re: HB 612

Dear Members of the Committee~

Please, show your support for healthy youth and pass HB 612. This bill is vital to support the health of Montana's youth. A recent Guttmacher Institute survey reported that 95% of Americans have sex before they're married and yet we are not equipping our students with the knowledge they need to protect themselves. Comprehensive sex education teaches that abstinence as the only definite way to avoid an unwanted pregnancy and STIs but also educates about contraceptives. Our youth desire and deserve comprehensive information.

Please support HB 612.

Sincerely,

Lisa R. McFarlane

Douglas Taylor
1228 Alkali Creek Road
Billings, MT 59105

Dear Members of the Committee~

Please support HB 612. It is time for us, as adults, to grow up - to stop acting like giggly sixth graders and talk about these issues. 2005 reports showed that about three out of five (60%) of 12th graders in Montana reported having had sexual intercourse at least once. By age 19, over $\frac{3}{4}$ of females and 85% of males have had intercourse. And, since approximately one quarter of all new cases of STDs occur among teenagers; I believe that our kids deserve to have all the facts, in an age appropriate manner, in order to make informed decisions about their future. In this era of HIV/AIDS, young people need information to protect their health and safety and make responsible life decisions. Please show your support for healthy, well-informed youth and pass HB 612.

Thank you,
Douglas Taylor

Dear Members of the Committee~

Please support HB 612. This is an important bill for the health of Montana's youth. A recent Survey reported that 95% of Americans have sex before they're married. Certainly abstinence is best, but it is obvious from these and other statistics, that it is simply not a practical solution. As adults we are in denial about this problem and are not equipping our students with the knowledge they need to protect themselves. Comprehensive sex ed emphasizes abstinence as the only sure way to avoid unwanted pregnancy and STIs but also educates about contraceptives. Don't our youth deserve to know the truth? HIV/AIDS, a sexually-transmitted infection, can be avoided and yet this disease and other STIs still spread among our youth. As a parent, I believe our sons and daughters deserve better. Please, show your support for healthy youth and pass HB 612.

Thank you,
Becky Taylor
Billings, MT

Jane Myhre
4342 Wells Plave
Billings, MT 59106

Dear Members of the Committee:

Please support HB 612. As a mother and a grandmother I know how very important a good age-appropriate program in sex education can be. No matter how much effort and education is spent on abstinence, unless the young people understand the emotional, physical, and scientific aspects of sexual relationships they can find themselves in situations beyond their emotional powers to handle. It is vital that they be taught and understand the ramifications of sexual behavior and be given the knowledge about how to protect themselves.

We are talking about more than good and bad behavior, even more than about religious beliefs. We are talking about health, life and death for our youth.

History and statistics illustrate well the results of lack of knowledge and full understanding --- unwanted pregnancies, diseases which can ruin the life of a young person, even kill. Our youth need to know not only how to avoid the relationship in the first place, but how to protect themselves if they are unable to control themselves or to protect themselves from undesired results of a relationship.

Please support House Bill No. 612.

Thank you.
Jane Myhre

Kathleen Toohill
124 Wyoming Ave.
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Members of the Committee-

I am writing to ask you to support HB 612. I feel that this bill is extremely important for better opportunity for the health of young Montanans for comprehensive and medically accurate sexual education. This does not just impact young children's lives but then helps them as they become adults no matter their age. I have two young children and countless friends with young children, and I want each and every one of them to be protected from unplanned pregnancy, sexual transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS, and be armed with age appropriate and accurate, necessary information. When I was young I did not receive this information but hope for more for my children as well as other children of Montana.

Please support HB 612.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Toohill

Feb 21, 2007

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

It is absolutely necessary that our young people be given medically-accurate, comprehensive reproductive education! This education doesn't replace parental guidance, and the programs in no way hastens or encourages sexual involvement. In fact, it has been found that making accurate information available actually postpones sexual involvement.

How many parents give or even have accurate information about reproductive health to their children? Many parents are very uncomfortable discussing these facts with their children, and many parents have never received accurate information themselves. This program give all the options to teens encouraging abstinence, building self esteem and practicing the right of refusal. Our children have an absolute right to accuracy in their reproductive health education. I would appreciate your support of HB#612 to provide Montana youth with correct information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bonnie Eldredge
3115 Harrow Drive
Billings, MT. 59102

Honorable Representatives,

I'm a Montanan who cares for our State and our people; please allow me to urge each of you, "our representatives", to give unprejudiced consideration to HB 612 for the sake of our future adults. As a mother and a retired Nurse Practitioner in Well Woman Health Care, HB 612 gives accurate information for prevention of unplanned pregnancy and exposure to sexually transmitted infections. Honest education promotes confidence and enables our youth and young adults to make wise decisions. Further, and equally important, it empowers them to develop their own morals and convictions. It speaks of us having confidence in them and establishing a bond of trust; we are in their eyes, "askable adults". They believe we care about them and trust they will make good decisions. Don't we??

Vote for our future adults! Vote YES for HB 612

Respectfully yours,

Lavina Guertin
3101 North Daffodil Drive
Billings, MT 59102
406-652-2928



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & EDUCATION

Bridger Clinic
300 N. Willson, #2001
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 612. We are a group of teenagers that are strongly in favor of comprehensive sexuality education in Montana schools. We are each a part of a team of peer educators in Bozeman who volunteer with our local family planning clinic (Bridger Clinic) to provide accurate reproductive, sexuality, and relationship education in our high school. This information includes messages about abstinence and other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. We also serve as mentors to eighth grade students preparing for the social challenges of high school and do a variety of presentations for them such as healthy decision making, body image, eliminating bullying, and preventing pregnancy and STIs with a focus on abstinence. We believe young people make clearer and more life enhancing decisions when they are given information and the opportunity to discuss sexuality, and are aware of the responsibilities and consequences of specific behavior. Through our program, we see lots of success and positive impact on our peers. Undoubtedly, the passage of HB 612 would allow agencies like Bridger Clinic to serve Montana communities more effectively.

With the emphasis on sex in our culture, comprehensive sexuality education offers a responsible balance to what we see and hear in the media. For some reason, many parents find it difficult to talk with their children about sex. If young people don't get information and guidance from their families, they deserve to get it somewhere! You can check the rate of teen pregnancy in Gallatin County and see that it is rising at an alarming rate. STIs can be devastating to one's body and well being. Please help ensure that young people have the resources to protect their health and their futures.

Thank you, Abbey Tate

Hayden King
Kaitlyn Johnson
Tate Carpenter
Sarah F.
Matt Hill
Dail L...
Kaitlyn
Chris Smith
Tim Johnson
John L. Hill
Chloe Georgetown
Cameron D...
Kelsie
Jean
Acuff
Sarah S...
G...
G...

To whom this may concern I am
in favor of the "Health Bill for Teens." I believe
all teens and children should know the fact
about sex and what could happen to
them if there not safe. You can't tell anybody
what to do but you can help explain
the consequence and teens and children
would probably like the comfort of know
that someone cares about what they
do.

Nicole Polman
16 years old

To whom it may concern

I am for the "Healthy Bill for Teens." I feel that it is very important for teenagers to get accurate information about serious issues. I feel that if they aren't given this knowledge, they won't be aware of the consequences. Teenagers are young and are going to do what they want to do, instead of ~~the~~ telling them not to have sex, give them the facts and let them choose for themselves.

Regina Hamming

To whom it may concern:

February 15, 2007

I agree with the "Healthy Bill for Teens". I believe this program would be beneficial to teens. I think this because there is no way to deny that teens are having sex and there really is no way to stop them, but we can educate them. With this funding, teens will be taught healthy ways to prevent pregnancy and disease. This program will teach kids about sex and its effects. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sydney Fredrickson

Age 16

To whom it may concern:

I agree with the "Healthy Bill for teens". I believe it will help teens know more about sexual activity. Hopefully it will decrease the amount of teen pregnancy, and also alert them to the consequences they may have to face when they are sexually active. Teens may choose to wait to have sex because of the consequences, or they may choose to use protection. Either way would help the community.

Sincerely,
Jaquelyn Ruzan

To: whoever
From: Andrew Haberman

I am definatly for the "Healthy Bill For Teens." IF kids in their teens, or younger already have a sex life, then they need to be informed on what their getting their self into. They need to know that there are risks and distases, and lots of consequences that could ruin your life because of it.

To Whom This May Concern:

Feb. 15, 2007

I am in favor of the "Healthy Bill for Teens." I believe that this bill would help teenagers be more careful when thinking about sexual activity. I think this program would help to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies. I also believe this program would be good because it would teach teens to be more responsible about sex.

Buttany Brown
age 17

To Whom it may concern

I support the bill allowing to educate teens on sexuality. The bill would be an asset to the programs around Helena. The amount of sexual activity throughout Helena Area teens is disappointing. Please consider the bill as an learning experiment teens will benefit from. Thank you.

Sincerely

Nicole Johnson
Age 17

I believe that this bill is outrageous. Sure, the benefits of abstinence should be taught in health class, but it already is. To be absenant is a personal choice and it should not be forced upon already overwhelmed teenagers. This choice is ours and ours alone. Pless, no matter what we are taught, we will make our own decisions. Don't waste our tax payer money for nothing.

Thank you for listening,
Alicia Aldrich

I THINK "Healthy Bill for Teens" should pass
because it's important for every teenager to
learn about sexuality. It's all normal stuff.
We need to be educated so we can stay healthy
and not suffer from the consequences of unprotected
sex or usage of alcohol. This will make it a
better community.

Sincerely,
KARISSA STRAW, CHS

My name is Allyssia Bushnell. I am a junior at Capital High School and 17 years of age. As a teenager, I have seen how sexuality education is instructed currently, and, therefore, support the "Healthy Bill for Teens" for several reasons. Teenagers should be provided with all the necessary information to make healthy decisions on sexuality. Education focused solely on abstinence, although it should be promoted, does not provide enough information and applies unnecessary pressure to teens. Education free of opinions or religious bias allows individual teens to make those decisions and leaves influence in the hands of family. Safer, smarter, and healthier sexuality choices can be developed by teenagers when they are informed with an education free of bias. For these reasons, I fully support the "Healthy Bill for Teens."

Ally Bushnell
P.5
2/15/07

To Whom it may concern I am For the
'Healthy Bill for Teens!'

my reason for this is because
kids are curious and If they have
some good fact's maybe they wont
so curious.

Tammy WRZESINSKI
Heggs

I would agree with having a sex education class. The generation that I have been born into has taken a dramatic step with birth control and sex. Teaching us more about sex could help with the growing numbers of teenage pregnancy. There may also be a lower risk of sex related health problems if more was taught in our schools. Growing issues are more within the lack of knowledge toward birth control, how to use it and the concerns of not using it. Personally, I would love to see improvements made to help make things better understood about the finer points of sex.

Signed,
A concerned student.

Joelle Carrington

I feel that the "Healthy Bill for Teens" would be great for teenagers any age to learn about sex. This program can help teenagers make smart decisions about their lives. As time changes, teenagers begin to face decisions about sex. I believe it would be very beneficial to have a program where all of their questions can be answered. This allows them to feel safe in a secure environment where they can talk about sex. Also, they will not feel afraid and will begin get real facts about sex. This program will help them to become more safe and they will learn important information. The "Healthy Bill for Teens" would be beneficial for many teens in our society today.

Sincerely,
A student of
Capitol High School

I feel the "Healthy Bill for Teens" is a wonderful idea. As I understand it will talk about many subjects that are not easily talked about. The schools also do not provide students with as much information, as I feel, Plan Parenthood could. We had a guest speaker come to our class and I got more information about birth control. Not all students take the class so they did not get this opportunity like everyone should. I believe that everyone needs to be knowledgeable about sex, safe-sex, birth control and all the other aspects. I feel the "Healthy Bill for Teens" would be a wonderful option to receive information about this sensitive topic.

Thanks for your time and please seriously consider
this bill.

Morgan Stenbagen

I agree with the new bill called "Healthy Bill for Teens." I agree because very few teens know the risks of sex. A lot of parents don't know how to talk about sex w/their kids. The kids have to learn by their friends or other means. In school you learn about the body parts and things like that but you don't learn about birth control or how to keep safe from getting pregnant. So I think this bill is wonderful.

Sincerely

Capital High Student

I think it is necessary to teach teens about Birth control. Through this experience I learned that there are so many kinds of them, not only pill and condom. Also it was a nice opportunity to know the correct way to use it, as teens tend to use it w/ the information from other friends, which might not be true.

I agree with the "Healthy
Bill for teens". Simply because
as a concerned student I want
to have more community resources.
Although abstinence is the best
way on not getting pregnant I
would want to be well aware
of all other options. Another
reason is that if everyone knew
that these options were/ could be
available the teenage pregnancy
rate would go down. This is all
very good reasons.

Yours truly,

Laura E. Lopez

I believe that this Bill is teaching things that teens need to know. Because at school they teach only abstinence, so kids do not have other choices. Teens may not know about all their options so having the "Healthy Bill for Teens" will let them see others options.

I personally believe that people should remain abstinent until marriage, but I do realize that many do not. We all fall into wanting to be loved and please others. If a person is sexually active, they should be given the information and resources to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases, conception, and also getting help when they do get a virus or disease.

I do not believe that abortion should ever be an option, so if a woman becomes pregnant, information on adoption or on keeping the child should be readily available.

All life is precious, whether young or old, sick or well.

If we really care about protecting our selves from sexual "inconveniences" outside of marriage, then we should remain pure for our future spouse.

yes I would like to have a 3000 car b/c it looks

to be a good car and it is a good car

it is a good car and it is a good car

it is a good car and it is a good car

it is a good car and it is a good car

it is a good car and it is a good car

I agree with this bill. Most teenagers choose not to stay abstinent. I do not think that we should have the decision that we have to stay abstinent till we are married. Its a personal choice if we want to stay abstinent or not.

Sincerely, a student
from Capital High School.

To who it may concern.

I am for the healthy Bill for teens. The main reason is because teens need to be informed. Teens who are in a sexual relationship or want to stay ^{should} be informed about the risks and advantages to the choices that they make. I believe that if someone is going to have a sexual relationship they should know about dating violence, sexual transmitted diseases, statistics, teen pregnancy and other emotional conditions associated with being in a sexual relationship.

Jamie M. Wine-gor
Age 16

"Healthy Bill for Teens"

The "Healthy Bill for Teens" has been brought to my attention. I am for this program for state funding for a comprehensive sexuality education program.

I think its a good idea because in our generation you see lots of teens in sexual relationships and I think it would be good for them to have more information about it that way they understand what they are getting themselves into.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Sincerely,

Jelly Thomas

To whom it may concern,

I am for the "Healthy Bill for Teens".
My decision is simply based upon
personal reasons. I believe that it is
important for teenagers to be taught &
get information about sex, and sexual
relationships. Mostly because there are
teenagers out in the world who are having
sexual relationships with their partner & I
think teens deserve to be able to receive
information about the consequences
for being in sexual relationships. Thank-
you for your time.

Sincerely,


Brittney Cummins

To who it may concern,

I agree with the "Healthy Bill for teens" allocation for state funding for a comprehensive Sexuality education program. Because of the fact that most of the teens in any high School have been or are in a Sexual relationship most teens dont know what they are doing. They need to know how to protect themselves and what they need to do since most are.

Ashley N. Martin
Age 18

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY AMONG TEENS¹

The United States leads all other industrial countries in teen pregnancy, though levels of teen sexual activity are about the same. An estimated 82% of teen pregnancies are unintended according to the 1995 study by the Institute of Medicine. Montana's teen pregnancy rates are lower than the rest of the nation, however, they exact a significant social and economic toll on Montana families and communities.

HOW MANY MONTANA TEENS BECOME PREGNANT EACH YEAR?

- 1,643 pregnancies were reported in 2004 among teenagers, including 13 to girls under the age of 15.
- Montana teen pregnancy rates, fertility rates (age-specific live births rates) and abortion rates have declined over the last five-year period (2000-2004).
- In 2004, 28% Montana teens who had a pregnancy indicated that they had a prior pregnancy.

WHAT DOES PREGNANCY COST MONTANA TAXPAYERS?

- In SFY 2000, the cost to Montana taxpayers for a mother and child on FAIM, food stamps, Medicaid, and WIC averaged \$14,341 for the first year.
- Half of Medicaid's costliest "High Cost Babies" in FY 1994 were to teens at a cost of \$1,307,366.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF TEEN PREGNANCIES?

- In 2004, 74.5% of Montana teen pregnancies resulted in live births, approximately 25% of teen pregnancies resulted in abortions, less than 1% in fetal deaths.

HOW MANY TEENS ARE UNMARRIED WHEN THEY GIVE BIRTH?

- Non-marital births to teens represent 26% of non-marital births in Montana; the remaining 74% of non-marital births were to women 20 years or older.²
- The percentage of teen non-marital births (compared to all teen births) rose from 46% in 1981 to 80% in 2003.

WHAT ABOUT THE FATHERS?

- In 35% of the teen births in Montana, the father is three to ten years older than the mother.³

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF MONTANA TEENAGERS ARE SEXUALLY ACTIVE?

- In 2005, about three out of five (60%) of 12th graders in Montana reported having had sexual intercourse at least once.
- Approximately one in every three (27%) 9th graders, over 4 in every ten (40%) 10th graders, and a little more than one in every two (51%) 11th graders reported they had sexual intercourse at least once.

WHAT EFFECT DOES CHILDBEARING HAVE ON A TEEN'S HEALTH AND ECONOMIC STATUS?

- Teens are more likely than women 20 years of age or older to have: late or no prenatal care; low birth weight babies; and babies who die within the first year of life.
- Teen parents are likely to be less educated, have more children, have more nonmarital births, and have more unintended births than women who postpone childbearing.

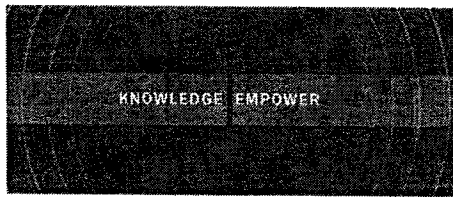
WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

- No single approach can fully address or solve the complex problem of teen pregnancy.
- Early and comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention strategies remain exceedingly more cost effective than the choices available once pregnancy occurs.

Sources: IOM, The Best Intentions: Unintended Pregnancy and the Well-being of Children and Families, 1995; Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2005; DPHHS - 2004 Montana Vital Statistics, Natality Section; Alan Guttmacher Institute.

² Includes live births and fetal death vital statistics data.

³ Includes live births and fetal death vital statistics data.



*In Good Company:
Who Supports Comprehensive Sexuality Education?*

If you support comprehensive sexuality education—medically accurate, age-appropriate education that includes information about abstinence and contraception—then you are in good company.

Medical, Scientific, and Public Health Communities Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- **The American Academy of Pediatrics** believes that “children and adolescents need accurate and comprehensive education about sexuality to practice healthy sexual behavior as adults.”¹ Its policy statement continues: “Abstinence-only programs have not demonstrated successful outcomes with regard to delayed initiation of sexual activity or use of safer sex practices.”²
- **The American Foundation for AIDS Research** believes that “investing in comprehensive sex education that includes support for abstinence but also provides risk-reduction information” would be a more effective HIV-prevention strategy for young people than simply an abstinence-only message.³
- **The American Medical Association** urges schools to implement comprehensive, developmentally appropriate sexuality education programs and to include an integrated strategy for making condoms available to students.⁴
- **The American Psychological Association** recommends that “comprehensive and empirically supported sex education and HIV-prevention programs become widely available to teach youth how to abstain from risky sexual behaviors and learn how they can protect themselves against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.”⁵
- **The American Public Health Association** “endorses the right of children and youth to receive comprehensive sexuality education that includes facts, information, and data and that demonstrates an appreciation of racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity.”⁶
- **The Institute of Medicine** recommends that “Congress, as well as other federal, state, and local policymakers, eliminate the requirements that public funds be used for abstinence-only education, and that states and local school districts implement and continue to support age-appropriate comprehensive sex education and condom availability.”⁷
- **The Society for Adolescent Medicine** found that “current U.S. federal law and guidelines regarding abstinence-only funding are ethically flawed and interfere with fundamental human rights” and that there should be a “comprehensive approach to sexual risk reduction including abstinence...and contraception use among teens who choose to be sexually active.”

Religious Communities Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- Eight religious denominations and the Office of Family Ministries and Human Sexuality, National Council of Churches of Christ, have policies supporting sexuality education in schools. The denominations are: Central Conference of American Rabbis, Church of the Brethren, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church.⁸ Almost nine in ten self-described conservative Evangelical or born-again Christians support the teaching of sexuality education in schools.⁹

The Education Community Supports Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- **The National Education Association** recommends SIECUS' *Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education: K-12* as a resource in developing appropriate school-based curricula.¹⁰
- **The American School Health Association** "recommends sexuality education to exist within a comprehensive school health education program to demonstrate the interrelationship of health behaviors and to provide a planned, sequential pre-kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum."¹¹

The American Public Overwhelmingly Supports Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- A 2004 national poll of parents found that 93% of parents of junior high school students and 91% of parents of high school students believe it is very or somewhat important to have sexuality education as part of the school curriculum.¹²
- 72% of parents of junior high school students and 65% of parents of high school students stated that federal government funding "should be used to fund more comprehensive sex education programs that include information on how to obtain and use condoms and other contraceptives" instead of funding sex education programs that have "abstaining from sexual activity" as their only purpose.¹³
- More than 6 in 10 voters would be more likely to vote for a candidate that supported comprehensive sexuality education.¹⁴

Updated June 2006

¹ Policy Statement, *Sexuality Education for Children and Adolescents*, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2001, accessed 19 May 2005, <<http://www.aap.org/policy/0068.html>>.

² Ibid.

³ *Issue Brief: Assessing the Efficacy of Abstinence-Only Programs for HIV Prevention among Young People* (Washington, DC: American Foundation for AIDS Research, April 2005).

⁴ Policy Statement, *Sexuality Education, Abstinence, and Distribution of Condoms in Schools*, American Medical Association (1999), accessed 19 May 2005 <http://www.ama-assn.org/apps/pf_online/pf_online?f_n=browse&doc=policyfiles/HOD/H-170.968.HTM>.

⁵ American Psychologists Association, *Based on the Research, Comprehensive Sex Education is More Effective at Stopping the Spread of HIV Infection*, Says APA Committee, Press Release (23 February 2005), accessed 19 May 2005, <<http://www.apa.org/releases/sexeducation.html>>.

⁶ Policy Statement, 9309: *Sexuality Education*, American Public Health Association (1993), accessed 19 May 2005 <<http://www.apha.org/legislative/policy/policysearch/index.cfm?fuseaction=view&id=92>>.

⁷ M.S. Ruiz, et al., *No Time to Lose: Getting More from HIV Prevention* (Washington, D.C: Institute of Medicine, 2000), 6.

⁸ *An Open Letter to Religious Leaders about Sex Education* (Norwalk, CT: Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing, 2002).

⁹ *Sex Education in America: General Public/Parents Survey* (Washington, DC: NPR, Kaiser Family Foundation, Kennedy School of Government, 2004), Table 3.

¹⁰ *Sexual Health, the Role of School Personnel*, National Education Association, accessed 19 May 2005, <http://www.neahin.org/resources/docs/Sexual_Health_HIN_Flyer.pdf>

¹¹ *American School Health Association Compendium of Resolutions*, American School Health Association (April 2002), accessed 19 May 2005, <<http://www.ashaweb.org/familylife>>

¹² *Sex Education in America: General Public/Parents Survey*, 5.

¹³ Ibid., 7.

¹⁴ *Mobilizing Support for Sex Education: New Messages and Techniques* (New York, NY: The Othmer Institute of Planned Parenthood of NYC, 2002).